UCCF REPORT

"The Life and Mission of the Church in the United States" is the theme that has been chosen for emphasis by the campus Christian movements during this academic year. This is the fourth year in which Christian students and faculty on our campuses have tried to explore more deeply what the biblical faith has to say about the calling of the Church, what it means to witness and serve as a part of the Body of Christ all across the world, in the university community and in the United States in the twentieth century.

The exploration has called for serious study of both the world in which we are set and the Word which reveals God's purposeful activity in the world and among his people. Serious concern calls for study, research and response. The October issue of CAMPUS RESOURCE noted three basic study pieces to help campus groups take a serious look at the theme—Peter Berger's **The Noise of Solemn Assemblies: An Essay on the Mission of the Church in America;** a study guide for the Berger book; and the Bible study guide, **All Things Are Yours: The Life of the Church as Found in Paul's First Letter to Corinth** by James H. Burtness—through individual reading, study groups, conferences.

Research and Response

The research which is needed calls us into living and working with people from many parts of the world through workcamps, exchange semesters, internships, seminars, jobs, with the intention of trying to understand more deeply what the world itself and people in it are saying in their own terms. Campus Christian groups will explore their own campus life, its structures and patterns of relationship, as well as the communities about them, in an effort to see clearly the forces at work and to gather the kind of flesh and blood data which permit an accurate understanding of our world.

Response is an integral part of research and study. It is only as one responds to the knowledge that he has—in the laboratory, in human relationships, in work, play or at any other point—that further insight is open to him. Thus campus groups and individual students have dared and will dare to act in the world at many points. They must continue to seek to live out what they understand, to participate faithfully in what they believe God is doing in the world.

During this academic year UCCF urges its campus groups to explore this theme in each of these three ways: through study, research, response. We need to find ways on our campuses to look at the meaning of "mission" and "witness."

The character of contemporary American culture needs to be probed. The deep differences between many of our cultural assumptions and values and those of the Christian faith need to be pointed up. This will affront us, for we share in the cultural assumptions and also believe ourselves to be Christians. While noting these differences, we also need to point up the positive things that Christians must sustain and help re-create in the new context of a technological mass culture.

We need to open up an arena for dialogue with the world. In view of the discussions of "witness" and of the "world" of American life, what are the areas of significant and fruitful dialogue beyond our own borders as all of us are involved in the life and mission of the Church?

Confronting the Sociologist

For one to read the pages of **The Noise of Solemn Assemblies** makes such discussion and study imperative. When confronted with the sociologist's analysis and commentary, such as these, what is our response as campus Christian groups:

". . . The moments of intellectual passion, far from being phases in a process of 'growing up,' are the crucial

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points of decision in life. This is why the years in which one is a student are of such importance . . . these years can be those in which the basis for an authentic existence is built. They can also be the years which fixate for the rest of life an existence of inauthenticity, dishonesty and bad faith.

". . . The religious institution does not (perhaps one should say, not any longer) generate its own values, but ratifies and sanctifies the values prevalent in the general community. . . . Uusually the most that can be said is that the Church members hold the same values as everyone else but do so with more emphatic solemnity. . . . As we have seen, commitment to Christianity thus undergoes a fatal identification with commitment to society, to respectability, to the American way of life.

". . . Theology provides the self-understanding of the Christian community. . . . When churches abandon or de-emphasize theology, they give up the intellectual tools by which the Christian message can be articulated . . . by which the Christian churches can judge themselves. . . . In the resulting chaos of religious ideas the principal criterion left to the community as it seeks to find its way is . . . that of expediency.

". . . In our preface we have stressed the importance for Christians of lucid, fearless perception of social reality. We would go farther now and stress not only independence of thinking but rebelliousness of attitude. Our time has had its share of organization men. What we need very badly indeed is Christian rebels. . . . Again we would express the timid hope that Christian students may have an important mission in our situation. They have less to lose, not only materially but psychologically. Not yet full-time vassals of the kings of this world, they are more free to call them naked. They have the resources of youthful imagination that will not draw back prematurely from grappling with the possibilities of existence. It is still too early to say whether the recent stirrings of a new moral and political commitment among American students are more than straws in the wind. But Christians, more than others, should hope for more than anger."

Anger Is Not Enough

It was Albert Camus, the non-believer and great contemporary French novelist, who said before he died:

"What the world expects of Christians is that Christians should speak out, loud and clear, and. . . . That they should get away from abstraction and confront the blood-stained face history has taken on today. The grouping we need is a grouping of men resolved to speak out clearly and to pay up personally."

Anger is not enough reaction or response to our world and the disruption of values we find in the United States. We cannot afford, either, an anger that retreats to play teddy-bear like the leading characters in John Osborne's "Look Back in Anger." There must be a "paying up personally." But the question before us in this life and mission study is do we really know the facts, are we willing to face them and how do we respond? To focus on the theme in our campus fellowships is to make an attempt to begin to answer the questions, to begin to respond.

United Campus Christian Fellowship will end this year of study through its National Study Conference, to be held August 25-30, 1962. The basis for the conference was printed in the October issue of the UCCF REPORT. In the January issue of CAMPUS RESOURCE more material will be shared for significant study and resource possibilities for campus use during the second semester.

For additional resources for developing your local program and study, write directly to the Secretary for Communications and Publications, UCCF Publications Office, 1720 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis 3, Missouri.

UCCF, NSCF AND WSCF

United Campus Christian Fellowship is participating in the Life and Mission of the Church Project through its membership in the National Student Christian Federation and the World Student Christian Federation. As such, UCCF joins campus Christian movements in over fifty countries participating in the same study at the same time.

The usual comment from local campus fellowships is that NSCF and WSCF are "so far away," "just other organizations," "something out there for which we have little or no concern." "What are **they** doing for **us**?" campus groups ask. "Are they just more organizations on paper or administrative headquarters?"

The UCCF Publications Office hopes to share fuller reports on these organizations and our concerns within them in the January issue of CAMPUS RESOURCE. In the meantime, these are just a few of the significant events in the life of NSCF and WSCF this past year.

The National Student Christian Federation:

. . . sent 122 young people into ecumenical work camps all over the globe through its Commission on Ecumenical Voluntary Service Projects.

. . . participated in a student exchange program with students in the Soviet Union through the Council on Student Travel.

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. . . has published, on behalf of all the campus Christian movements in the United States, such significant books as Alexander Miller's **Faith and Learning;** Jacques Ellul's **The Theological Foundation of the Law;** Karl Barth's **Community, Church and State;** Peter Berger's **The Noise of Solemn Assemblies;** and the new **Manual for Christian Work Among International Students.**

. . . sponsored a number of frontier seminars; weekend conversations on missions; campus visitations of overseas personnel; an ecumenical team for visitations to campuses; and the "missionary to America" through its Commission on World Mission.

. . . supervised developments of specialized ministry to international students on a dozen or so large campuses through its Committee for Christian Work Among International Students.

. . . sponsored a visit of an American-Cuban team to visit American campuses to discuss Cuban-American relations during the Cuban crisis.

. . . was deeply involved in negotiations on the development of the Peace Corps, attempting to speak the concerns of the campus Christian movements.

. . . sponsored the African Students Emergency Aid program.

. . . was represented in the membership of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and gave funds for legal aid to students arrested in connection with sit-ins and Freedom Rides.

All, or any one of these, is worthy of our concern and support. The National Student Christian Federation is not something "out there." It is coordinating efforts that are impossible for any one campus Christian group, for any one national movement. As it develops its program and concern, it aids us as local fellowships to extend ourselves where we cannot go alone.

On the world-wide scale, the World Student Christian Federation has the same kinds of concerns. Through the Program of Ecumenical Assistance, for instance, money that is contributed by local campus Christian groups through the world is placed at the disposal of the leadership of campus Christian movements in areas of the world which do not have the financial resources to carry on their work independent of such aid. This is one of the most important single operations of the WSCF.

Through the staff of WSCF, visitations can be made to countries without adequate leadership; the voice of the campus Christian movement can be heard in world-wide or area meetings. The staff of WSCF have recently been involved in conversations with leaders of the Orthodox Church in Russia; have given counsel to students in the Middle East during many crises; have sent additional staff to help in Asia and the Far East; have sponsored leadership training institutes in South America. Funds contributed by many of our UCCF groups here in the United States to WSCF have aided in the appointment of a secretary for the continent of Africa, where so many new nations are emerging and where Christian leadership is so vitally needed.

The National Student Christian Federation and the World Student Christian Federation are not something "out there," to be sure. The money and concern which we share through these organizations help us live out our mission in our own country and throughout the world.

A. Executive Committee Meetings		$ 1,350.00
B. Officers and other committee meetings		900.00
C. National Council Annual Meeting		1,400.00
1. Program	$ 500.00	
2. Executive Committee	900.00	
D. NSCF Delegation to annual General Assembly		1,100.00
E. NSCF Committee Meetings		350.00
F. Commitment to World Student Christian Federation		**9,400.00**
1. General Budget	**8,058.50**	
2. Life and Mission	**1,341.50***	
G. Commitment to National Student Christian Federation		**4,100.00**
H. Miscellaneous		600.00
		$19,200.00

*Life and Mission study has been continued for three years. This is ⅓ of our total share of the study.

UCCF and the Federations

When major revisions were made in the 1961-62 *United Campus Christian Fund*, the amounts pledged to the National Student Christian Federation and to the World Student Christian Federation were left unchanged from 1960-61. If we cannot reach our budget, the first expenditures to trim are those closest to home. Travel allowances and meeting costs were subsequently reduced. There continues firmly, however, a dedication to NSCF and WSCF. The *United Campus Christian Fund*, this present year, will contribute seventy per cent of campus fellowship giving to the federations.

The Life and Mission study has been continued for three more years. *UCCFund* will contribute $4,025 to the continuation of the study. This year, one-third of our pledge, $1,342, will go to WSCF for this purpose.

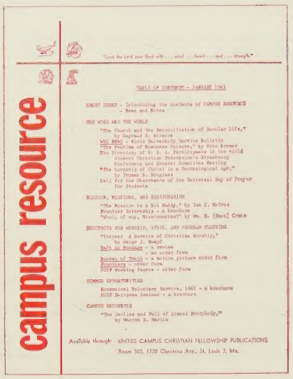
The World Student Christian Federation has contributed in an unprecedented manner to world understanding. The International Union of Students and WSCF have held conversations in Prague. Meetings between the sCm's of the United States and Japan have been arranged to discuss nuclear disarmament. The program and concerns are extensive. UCCF hopes to contribute an additional $8,059 to the General Budget of WSCF.

The National Student Christian Federation receives $4,100 of the *United Campus Christian Fund*, toward its total budget of $556,500. The 1962 budget of NSCF devotes $390,000 to the Life and Mission study of WSCF, United States area projects, ecumenical workcamps, the WSCF Program of Ecumenical Assistance, seminars and conferences. During the past year, when many African students found their resources depleted and their studies in the United States about to end because of lack of funds, NSCF provided the funds. Well over twice the amount spent on administrative costs is dedicated to service.

United Campus Christian Fund has a special "Challenge Quota" for 1961-62. The Challenge Quota of $2,500 is for the Program of Ecumenical Assistance of the World Student Christian Federation, discussed in another column of this UCCF REPORT.

. . . *Arthur Neis*, UCCF Treasurer

(For a complete discussion of the 1961-62 *United Campus Christian Fund*, watch for the January issue of CAMPUS RESOURCE.)



FRONTIER SEMINARS for students and staff will again be sponsored by the National Student Christian Federation during Holy Week of 1962 in New York, Dallas, Chicago and San Francisco. The seminars are a week of saturation in the frontiers of contemporary society to which the Church is called in mission; confrontation with the pertinent issues which emerge as Christians become immersed in the city and the life of modern, post-Christian man; an opportunity for contact with significant projects and persons in the life of the Church. For further information write: Commission on World Mission, National Student Christian Federation, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27.

"THE WESTERN ENCOUNTER" has been initiated as the publication for the Pacific Southwest Region of UCCF. A two-page printed sheet, it is issued three times during the academic year to coincide with CAMPUS ENCOUNTER from the national office and develop some of the same theme as it affects campuses in the region. The editor is Al Cervenka, 5071 Campanile Drive, San Diego 15, California.

UCCF NATIONAL STAFF have been assigned various areas for which they are responsible for regional and local UCCF relationships. The staff assignments are as follows:

Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas	Emerson I. Abendroth 9247 Outlook Drive Overland Park, Kansas
Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska	Verlyn Barker 1720 Chouteau Avenue St. Louis 3, Missouri
Colorado, Hawaii, Missouri, Wyoming	Hartland H. Helmich 1720 Chouteau Avenue St. Louis 3, Missouri
Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee	Robert T. Huber Room 416 222 South Downey Avenue Indianapolis 7, Indiana
Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington	Paul Kearns Room 201 228 McAllister Street San Francisco 2, California
Ohio	Quentin Lansman 601 West Riverview Avenue Dayton 6, Ohio
Florida, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia	Arnold Nakajima 825 Witherspoon Building Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania
Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin	LeRoy Loats Suite 1414 29 East Madison Street Chicago 2, Illinois
New York	Earl Lowell Room 302 225 West 23rd Street New York 11, New York
Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania	Harry Manon 3601 Locust Street Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania
Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont	Philip McKean 1145 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

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United Campus Christian Fellowship
Room 416, 222 South Downey Avenue
Indianapolis 7, Indiana

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